

Northwest Colorado BLM Greater Sage-Grouse EIS

What is this planning effort about?

The BLM is writing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze incorporating new greater sage-grouse conservation measures into its Resource Management Plans for the five field offices within the Northwest Colorado District: the Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt, the Grand Junction Field Office, the Kremmling Field Office, the Little Snake Field Office in Craig and the White River Field Office in Meeker.

Before we begin writing this Environmental Impact Statement, we want to hear from the public and cooperators about any concerns or issues you want the BLM to consider as we complete this evaluation of sage-grouse conservation measures in Northwestern Colorado. This public scoping period ends March 23.

How can my comments be most effective?

Specific comments are the most helpful and effective. In particular, comments about the recommendations in the Sage-grouse National Technical Team's report (available at <http://blm.gov/g4jd>) will be helpful at this stage of the process.

How can the BLM incorporate these recommendations into our NW Colorado Resource Management Plans? What effects would these recommendations have on sage-grouse or other land uses?

Where should I send my comments?

Comments can be sent via regular mail to Erin Dreyfuss, NW CO District NEPA Coordinator at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, via email to gjfo_webmail@blm.gov, or via fax to (970) 244-3062. Please be sure to reference the CO Sage-Grouse EIS in the subject line of your fax or email.

Why are you doing this evaluation?

Greater sage-grouse is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. In December, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced new greater sage-grouse conservation guidance aimed at conserving the bird and its sagebrush habitat in 10 western states. This included new long-term conservation measures we are considering through this effort. More than 1.8 million acres of Colorado's greater sage-grouse habitat is found on BLM lands in the Northwest District. That's almost half of the entire greater sage-grouse habitat in Colorado.

How will this affect the current planning efforts in most of the Northwest Colorado Field Offices?

All five field offices in the Northwest Colorado District are either in an on-going land-use planning effort or have recently completed one. The BLM is evaluating where the sage-grouse conservation measures in each Field Offices' plans are consistent with National Technical Team's recommendations, and where we may need to consider Plan Amendments through this sage-grouse EIS. We expect the draft EIS to be available for public comment in spring 2013.

